



Mayors Report



Ratepayers and residents would be aware from recent media that the Minister for Local Government, the Hon P Gutwein MP, has written to all Councils within Tasmania encouraging them to consider either voluntary amalgamation opportunities; or alternatively consider strategic resource sharing options that would improve outcomes for ratepayers and meet the challenges of the future.

The communication from the Minister listed four key principles for any amalgamation proposal:

- Must be in the best interest of ratepayers;
- Improve the level of services for communities;
- Preserve and maintain local representation; and
- Ensure the financial status of the entities is strengthened.

Council has considered its position in response to the Minister's invitation, and in summary, has determined that entering into a strategic 'Shared Services Agreement' with other Councils is the most appropriate means of ensuring provision of efficient and cost effective services to ratepayers going forward.

As part of its deliberations, Council did consider the voluntary merger option(s), however it was resolved that this was not in the best interest of ratepayers for a number of reasons.

These included:

1. Reference to the report entitled 'Independent Review of Structures for Local Governance & Service Delivery in Southern Tasmania. This report, prepared by an independent panel consisting of Ms Jude Munro AO (Chair); Mr Saul Eslake; and Mr Stephen Hains, was commissioned by the Southern Tasmania Council's Authority. It essentially concluded that there was no further benefit to be gained from amalgamating non-metropolitan areas at this point of time. It did recommend that a review of the special needs of rural Councils be undertaken to identify and address their special needs. This should include a redistribution of the Australian Government's Financial Assistance Grants in recognition of the additional need within these rural areas;
2. Any amalgamation or merger proposal would result in a reduction in the level of local representation;
3. There was no evidence to substantiate that a merger of small rural Councils would achieve any cost savings;
4. There is real potential for adverse social and economic impacts on the existing Southern Midlands Council area;
5. This could extend to possible reduction in services, a loss of local employment opportunities etc.; and finally
6. Reference to a number of other external reports prepared in relation to this matter which conclude that amalgamation or mergers do not necessarily result in improved services or lower rates and charges. In some case, reports have indicated very much the opposite.

Council has recorded its intent to review the 'Shared Services' arrangement after a 12 month period and assess the level of savings and/or benefits that have arisen from such an initiative.

Ambulance Paramedics

Advice received from Tas Ambulance indicates that the introduction of a Paramedic based at Oatlands will commence in late October 2015. This follows the announcement in 2015/16 State Budget by the Minister for Health, the Hon Michael Ferguson MP.

I have been advised that a recruitment process has commenced and should be finalised by that time. The new service will be of great benefit to the entire Southern Midlands area as it will support and enhance the existing Oatlands based Ambulance service.

Vale Greg Hunt

It is with great sadness that I regrettably have to share with you the passing of Council's Community Development & Recreational Officer Greg Hunt.

Greg's passing is a great shock and a devastating loss to not only his workmates at the Southern Midlands Councils but also to the many community members throughout the Southern Midlands, and indeed across the wider Tasmanian community who he has supported over the years. The school students, who eagerly looked forward to the Southern Midlands School Holiday Program during their School break and benefited from his caring and commitment to ensure that they had fun, will greatly miss Greg.

I also acknowledge Greg's work and support of the Community Men's Shed at Oatlands where he was successful in gaining a number of important Government and Community Grants for the benefit of its members.

He will also be greatly missed by many community based organisations, not the least being the Bagdad Music Hall where he has been involved as script writer, poet, orator, comedian and singer. However most will remember him as the very entertaining Master of Ceremonies, a role that he undertook for the last 20 years.

On behalf of fellow Councillors and all of the work force of the Southern Midlands Council we extend our heartfelt sympathy and support to his wife Gaye & son Paul.

Greg's irrepressible good nature and sense of humour endeared him to everyone – he is a great loss and the world is a lesser place for his passing.



Blue September 2015

The Rural Primary Health Service in the Southern Midlands is endeavouring to rally the village of Oatlands into **Going Blue** for the whole month of September to show support for those men affected by cancer.



We are hoping that you would be happy to show your support for this project by decorating your home, business or even your car with **anything blue**.

The **Blue September** Organisation is keen to support the event and will be contacting media and plan to send the town an Ambassador such as **Mark Holden** in the month of September! We will be approaching local media and hope this will provide Oatlands with some publicity as the **Go Pink** event did in October 2014.

There are a number of events that will be occurring throughout the month of September and we will be fundraising to reach our target of \$10,000 for men's cancer.

Friday 4th September Blue September launch at Callington Mill and we are hoping that one of the national TV shows will be in attendance to broadcast live from the area. It would be great to see as many community members as possible there! Should be from 6.30am onwards! The staff at Callington Mill have kindly offered to open early and serve hot coffee and food.

Sunday 6th September 11am-2pm: Father's Day event at the recreation ground in Oatlands. There will be motorcycles and veteran cars on display. Free BBQ and activities for the kids including face painting! The coffee van will also be on site.

Thursday 10th September Men's Health Night at the Oatlands Community Club with Dr Simpson and Cancer Screening Services. 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Light supper provided.

Saturday 12th September Women's Dance Night at the Oatlands RSL 6.30pm until 10pm with a \$5 entry fee. All proceeds go to Blue September.

Tuesday 15th September- Go Blue Morning Tea at the Midlands Multipurpose Health Centre at 10am. Please bring a plate of food and there will also be a \$5 charge that will be donated to Blue September.

Friday 25th September meal at the Tunbridge Club. A donation from the cost of the meals will be given to Blue September.

Please come along to the events and show your support. I look forward to seeing you there. There is also a fundraising page that has been set up to help us achieve our goal.

This can be found at <https://blusep15.everydayhero.com/au/southern-midlands-council>

Corina McCarthy
Southern Midlands Rural Primary Health Service

Commercial Highway Signs at Oatlands

Council, in partnership with the State Government, is undertaking a project that will result in the removal of the unauthorised commercial signage on the highway at Oatlands and their replacement with township signs.



The commercial advertising signs on the highway at Oatlands (and most other locations) is 'unauthorised'. The signs are in contravention of State Government laws and Council's planning scheme rules.

The proliferation of an assortment of commercial signage presents a poor overall image of the town. Some businesses have four signs, and if all businesses had four signs, the highway around Oatlands would be very cluttered – which most people would agree would be a very bad look indeed. As it is, Oatlands is unfortunately recognised as one of the worst examples of illegal signage in the State. We need to present a better image to the travelling public.

In 2014 Council received a proposal from the State Government suggesting a pilot project at Oatlands whereby the Council and the State work together to have the unauthorised signs removed and to replace them with 'township signs' advertising – in general terms – what the town has to offer. The project is to set an example that could be used for other bypassed towns.

The idea was floated at a business forum held in Oatlands in 2014 and received strong support from those present. A draft of the proposed township signage has since been prepared.

In August and September Council will liaise with Oatlands business operators and the community to discuss the project generally and the design of the township signs in particular, with the aim of finalising the project before the coming tourist season.

In the meantime, any queries can be directed to Damian Mackey at Council's Kempton offices on 6259 3011, or by email on; dmackey@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Some of Tasmania's best junior darts players represented Tasmanian at the Australian under 18 Darts Championship 2015 in Ipswich earlier this year. Four of the junior representatives are members of the Bagdad Mixed Darts Association. This is a great achievement for the club. Johanna Dodge participated in the Mystery Mixed Doubles with Mathew from Queensland and they were the runners up in this event. Congratulations to all who took part.

"DARTS, more than most sports, is a matter of mind over matter. It's not about how fast, how strong or how physically brave you are. The physical action of throwing a dart is simple; the challenge is mental to make it consistently land where you want".

Summer Roster commences late September

Enquires: Sarah Knight,
Phone: 0418 178 256
EMAIL: bmda@inet.net.au

Tasmanian Junior under 18 Representative Darts Team



Southern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme 2015

Council anticipates that the new Southern Midlands Interim Planning Scheme will be declared by the Minister for Planning and come into operation sometime in August.

The new Planning Scheme will be able to be viewed on the State's new website at www.iplan.tas.gov.au (along with all other schemes in the State), where both the ordinance and the maps will be available. It will also be accessible via Council's website.

The new scheme contains a mix of state, regional and local provisions. It follows the format and structure of the Planning Scheme Template for Tasmania with a large proportion of the content based on the Southern Tasmania Regional Model Planning Scheme. A small proportion of the content is constituted by 'local provisions', including the municipality's 'Heritage Precincts' which have been transferred across from the old planning scheme.

The new scheme has a contemporary format with most development standards providing proponents with a choice of complying with a straight-forward 'acceptable solution' or a more involved 'performance criterion'.

Once the new interim scheme is declared it will become fully operational and the old scheme will no longer apply to new planning applications. Any valid planning applications lodged with Council (with all necessary information) prior to the new interim scheme coming into force will be assessed under the old planning scheme. All existing planning permits will remain valid (noting that all permits expire two years after being issued unless substantially commenced or a formal extension of time has been applied for and issued by Council).

After declaration, Council is required to publicly exhibit the new interim scheme for a period of 42 days and representations will be able to be made during this period. All representations will be considered by Council and incorporated into a report to the Tasmanian Planning Commission, making recommendations about the matters raised.

The State Government recently made changes to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* which has removed the requirement for the Commission to hold hearings on each representation. The Commission will only consider changes suggested in representations that relate to key regional matters or are urgent matters where the public interest is not prejudiced, and will only allow changes which have support from all relevant parties. Any other changes suggested in representations but not fitting into one of these categories may be pursued through the normal scheme amendment process.

The new Interim Planning Scheme was developed as part of the previous Government's state-wide planning reform process, which was largely based on the three regions. The current State Government is now progressing with the development of a 'Single Planning Scheme for Tasmania', which is planned to supplant the Interim Planning Schemes by early 2017. This is one reason why the State Government amended the planning legislation to do away with the need for formal hearings on all representations pertaining to the Interim Schemes. Progressing the Interim Planning Schemes to fully-approved status was not considered to be the best use of public resources when they will be supplanted by the state-wide scheme shortly thereafter.

AMSINCKIA IN TASMANIA – RAISING AWARENESS

Amsinckia in Tasmania

Amsinckia occurs in southern and northern Tasmania, particularly in the Derwent Valley and Central Highlands. There are localised infestations scattered across Southern Midlands. Amsinckia grows in a wide range of soil types and climates, but prefers disturbed, dry and open situations.

Amsinckia is a weed of grain, poppies and other crops, and is also found in stressed pastures and along roadsides. Prolific and staggered seeding makes Amsinckia a very competitive weed and heavy infestations can cause large yield losses. Amsinckia seed can contaminate grain, and the bristly flowers can contaminate wool.

Bristles on the leaves and stems make the plant unattractive to stock and it is generally unpalatable. At least one species of Amsinckia is toxic to stock, causing liver damage and increased sensitivity to light, with cattle, horses and pigs being most susceptible.

What is Amsinckia?

Amsinckia species are erect annual herbs from the Americas, also known as yellow burrweeds or fiddlenecks.

Amsinckia is a significant crop weed in Tasmania.

Amsinckia species are **declared weeds** in Tasmania under the *Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999*. The importation, sale and distribution of Amsinckia are prohibited in Tasmania.



How to identify Amsinckia

Amsinckias are hairy, winter-growing annual herbs, usually 20 to 70 cm high.

Seeds germinate with the first autumn rains and further germinations occur through autumn and winter. The plant grows as a rosette (a whorl of leaves close to the ground) during winter and a flowering stem emerges in late winter or spring.

Small yellow trumpet-like flowers are arranged along one side of the stem in a spike-like inflorescence coiled at the top. Flowering occurs from August to October/November. Aromatic seeds replace the small flowers in summer and autumn. Plants die off after seed set.

Further information

For additional identification information type 'Amsinckia' into your web search engine or contact Helen Geard at the

2015/2016 RATES AND CHARGES RATES RESOLUTION SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

THAT under the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Fire Service Act 1979*, the Southern Midlands Council has made the following rates and charges upon rateable land within the municipal area of Southern Midlands ("the municipal area"):

General Rates

- (a) Under section 90 (3) (c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the Act") Council makes a general rate of 7.8596 cents in each dollar of Assessed Annual Value for all rateable land within the municipal area shown on the valuation list prepared under the *Valuation of Land Act 2001* ("the valuation list"), subject to a minimum amount of \$297.00
- (b) Under sections 107 (1) (a) of the Act the Council also declares that the general rate is varied according to the use or predominant use of the land (as classified by the Valuer- General on the valuation list) and a rate of 7.5649 cents in each dollar of Assessed Annual Value applies for all rateable land classified as Primary Production, subject to a minimum amount of \$297.

Waste Management Charge

2. Under section 94 (1) of the Act Council makes a separate services charge in respect of the service of waste management called the Waste Management Charge upon all rateable land, which is capable of use for residential purposes, and Council declares that the charge is to be calculated in accordance with the following formulae:
 - a) for rateable land upon which a dwelling or dwellings are constructed:
Waste Management Charge = \$118 x D, where D is the number of dwellings on the rateable land, capable of being occupied.
 - b) for rateable land upon which no dwelling is constructed: Waste Management Charge = \$40.00

Garbage Removal Charge

3. a) Under section 94 (1) of the Act Council makes a separate services charge of \$132.00 in respect of the service of waste management called the Garbage Removal Charge upon all rateable land.
- b) Under section 107 (1) (c) and section 94 (3A) of the Act the Council declares that the Garbage Removal Charge is varied according to the locality of the land and the level of service provided as follows:
 - for the land identified by Property Identification Number 7462339 the charge is \$2,772.00;
 - for land in the Broadmarsh/Elderslie areas to which the Council provides a fortnightly garbage removal service (utilising wheelie

bins) and kerbside recycling service, the charge is \$185.00.

- (iii) for land in the Tunbridge area to which the Council provides a fortnightly garbage removal service (utilising wheelie bins and kerbside recycling service, the charge is \$185.00.
- (iv) for land to which the Council does not provide either a weekly garbage removal service and kerbside recycling service, or a fortnightly garbage removal service (utilising wheelie bins) and kerbside recycling service, the charge is zero.

Fire Service Contributions

4. For the Council's contribution to the State Fire Commission:-
 - (a) for land within the Oatlands & Kempton Volunteer Brigade Rating District an amount of 0.391 cents in the dollar on the assessed annual value of all rateable land subject to a minimum amount of \$38.00;
 - (b) for all other land in the municipal area an amount of 0.315 cents in the dollar on the assessed annual value of the land subject to a minimum amount of \$38.00.

Instalments

5. **These rates and charges are for the year commencing 1st July, 2015 and ending 30th June 2016 and are payable by 4 equal instalments, the first payable 30 days after the issue of the rates notices, the second by 4.30 p.m. on 30th November 2015, the third by 4.30 p.m. on 29th January 2016 and the fourth by 4.30 p.m. on 31st March 2016.**

Where a ratepayer elects to enter into an arrangement to pay the current rates and charges by monthly, fortnightly, or weekly instalments via one of the electronic payment options (including direct debit), then the instalment amounts will be calculated to settle the debt by 30th June 2016. Penalty and interest will not be applied on any of the 2015-16 rates and charges at the relevant date, provided that the instalment arrangements are adhered to. In the event of default, penalty and interest is to be calculated on the outstanding amounts.

Late Payments

6. Penalty: A penalty of 5% applies to any rate or charge that is not paid on or before the date it falls due.
Interest: In addition to the penalty, interest under section 128 of the *Local Government Act 1993* will be charged at the rate of 7.5% per annum.

Discount

7. A discount of 1.7% will apply to all rates and charges paid in full within 30 days after the date of issue. This discount is not applicable to rates and charges which are paid in instalments. The payment due date will appear on the rates notice.



Midland Highway Safety Improvements Update on Projects

The Australian and Tasmanian Governments recently released the Midland Highway 10 Year Action Plan as part of the State *Roads for Our Future* program.

The Action Plan sets out key priorities for investing \$500 million over 10 years to upgrade the Midland Highway and improve road safety along this major freight route.

A number of projects have been completed or will start shortly and others are in the planning and design stage. The following provides a snapshot of the status of current projects along the Midland Highway.

Mangalore – a public display will be held in November 2015 inviting local residents and road users to provide feedback on options being considered.

Bagdad – a public display was held in June. Installation of a painted median through the village, which will provide a central turning lane and a flexible safety barrier north of East Bagdad Road will start by December 2015.

South of Kempton – extending sealed shoulders, improved property access and installation of flexible safety barrier to be completed by November 2015.

Kempton to Melton Mowbray - this project will be undertaken in two stages and includes road widening, extending sealed shoulders, additional overtaking lanes, improved junctions and property access, and installing flexible safety barriers. Consultation with land owners on Stage 1 north of Mood Food to Melton Mowbray has been completed. Consultation with Kempton residents and others for Stage 2 from south of Kempton to Mood Food will start in August 2015.

South and north of Spring Hill – works nearly completed; other works to connect the two sections are currently being planned. Turning facilities at Lower Marshes Road, Lovely Banks Road and Bridge Road, Ross are being developed for construction in 2016.

Mud Walls Road junction - works completed.

South of Tunbridge – Stage 2 works for a south-bound overtaking lane to start in December 2015.

Tunbridge to Mona Vale - Consultation with land owners has been completed. Works to provide lane separation and additional overtaking lanes will start during summer of 2015/16.

Esk Main Road Junction – works completed.

Symmons Plains to south of Perth - planning and design work is underway. Public consultation will occur in early 2016.

Perth to Breadalbane – a four lane highway will be constructed from Perth to north of the Breadalbane roundabout. Consultation with landowners is nearing completion. Some works expected to begin by December 2015.

CAMPANIA STRUCTURE PLAN

Council is developing a Structure Plan for the historic village of Campania. The plan is needed to address a number of development issues including long-term town expansion and population growth, strengthening the school, solving use and development issues at Flour Mill Park, recreation needs and social



sustainability. The overall aim is to establish a blueprint for the economic, social and physical development of the town.

Over the course of 2015 a draft plan has been prepared. The process involved three well-attended community workshops and a school student consultation process.

The project work is being undertaken by consultants JMG Engineers & Planners and is jointly funded by Council, the Department of Education and the Department of State Growth.

In August the draft plan will be placed on general public consultation for three weeks. Council will be seeking comments and suggestions from all members of the community with an interest in the future development of Campania. Refer Council's website for public consultation details.

Any queries can be directed to Damian Mackey at Council's Kempton offices on 6259 3011, or by email

dmackey@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au.

Council's Community Small Grants Program - 2015



Council's Community Small Grants program has been established to support projects, programs and activities developed for the benefit of residents of the Southern Midlands municipal area. Council recognises

the immense community benefit provided to our residents and visitors by local community organisations through the provision of grants to assist them provide, but not restricted to, programs, improve safety, undertake minor capital works and purchase equipment.

This annual program opened on Monday 3rd August 2015 and closes at 4.30pm on Monday 31st August 2015. This round of grants will focus on projects commencing from 12th October 2015, with acquittal required by the 22nd July 2016.

Projects which aim to increase community participation and access to information, services and facilities while strengthening community and social well being will be favourably received.

An organisation can apply for assistance up to a maximum of \$3,000 per round, and no minimum applies.

Grant Application Guidelines and Application Forms are available from

www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au or hard copies available from our Oatlands and Kempton Offices:

All enquiries should be directed to Andrew Benson
phone on 62 593011 or email
abenson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Council Meetings 2015

Date	Venue	Time
26/8/2015	Council Chambers Kempton	10.00 am
23/9/2015	Council Chambers Oatlands	10.00 am
28/10/2015	Council Chambers Kempton	10.00 am

Please note dates may be subject to change, please check website prior to meeting.

A public copy of Council meeting agendas and minutes are available www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

26 JANUARY



AUSTRALIA DAY
CELEBRATE WHAT'S GREAT

Nominations are now open

Citizen, Youna Citizen and Community Event

To be eligible for Citizen of the Year or Young Citizen of the Year nominees must be Australian citizens & reside within the Southern Midlands Municipal Area. Young Citizens of the Year must be not more than 27 years of age on 26th January next.

The nominations must be accompanied by a testimony of at least 100 words and include the nominees contribution to the community and the name of at least one referee.

Nominations are to be submitted to the Southern Midlands Council, PO Box 21, Oatlands, Tas. 7120 by 4.00 p.m. on Monday 23rd November 2015.



Visit the website for more details www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

How to contact us!

www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Like us on  to get the latest Council news!

Future quarterly news letters will be published on Council's web site and face book .

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The General Manager
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mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Monday-Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

03 6254 5000

Corporate Services 03 6254 5000
ie rates, administration
Landcare Unit 03 6254 5046
Works Dept. 03 6254 5008

Development & Environmental Services, Community & Corporate Development

03 6259 3011

85 Main Street, Kempton Tas 7030
Facsimile 03 6259 1327
mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au
Monday-Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

Tourism & Recreation Facilities

Heritage Highway Visitor Centre
Callington Mill,
1 Mill Lane, Oatlands
03 6254 1212

Oatlands Swimming Pool

Campbell Street, Oatlands
03 6254 5024
Heritage Projects 03 6254 5000

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary

350 Chauncy Vale Road, Bagdad
03 6268 6365

After Hours Emergency Service

0419 325 405

Elected Members:

Mayor
Clr Tony Bisdee O.A.M.
P: 6259 1128
F: 6259 1418
M: 0418 355158
E:
abisdee@southernmidlands.com.au

Deputy Mayor
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Clr Bob Campbell
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Clr Don Fish
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F: 6255 5257

Clr David Marshall
P: 62604300
F: 62604300
dmashall@southernmidlands.com.au

HOUSEHOLD WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS OPERATING HOURS

OATLANDS	DYSART	CAMPANIA
Tunnack Main Road	Huntingdon Tier Road	Brown Mountain Road
Tuesday 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Tuesday 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Tuesday 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm
Friday 11.00 am to 3.00 pm		Thursday 1.00pm to 5.00 pm
Saturday 8.00 am to 12 noon	Saturday 12 noon to 5.00 pm	Saturday 8.00 am to 12 noon
Sunday 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Sunday 10.00 am to 5.00 pm	Sunday 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm
Closed Mon, Wed & Thurs	Closed Mon, Wed, Thurs & Friday	Closed Mon, Wed & Friday